

Effect of Occupation on Paternal Involvement in Child-care

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ABSTRACT Research conducted in Hisar City of Haryana State constituted the sample of one hundred fifty fathers having two children elder one in age group of up to six years equally representing three working class i.e. professional ministerial and labour. Further, under each class showing equal representation of working and non-working families. A self-structured and pretested interview schedule for background information and parental involvement inventory to judge the type and extent of fathers' involvement in child-care were used for collecting the data. For analysing the difference, two-sample 't' test was used to find out the paternal involvement in child-care among single and dual earner families in three working classes. The results of present study indicated that in professional class fathers from dual earner families were better involved as compared to fathers in single earner families. The differences were non-significant for health-care aspects but for the rest of child-care aspects, differences were found significant. In ministerial class differences came to be significant for all child-care aspects whereas in the labour class results indicated that there were small differences in the involvement of fathers in single and dual earner families. Among these three classes results reveal that professional class fathers were better involved than ministerial and labour class in single as well as dual earner families.

Parenting as a roleship of institution of family relates to upbringing of child. Parental affect may play an important role in determining the nature of care-giving behaviour and developmental outcomes for children. Positive parental affect predicts positive child adjustments, whereas negative affect is related to unfavourable child outcomes (Dix, 1991). Fathers play an important role in the development of child and his absence in child's first year is associated with detrimental effects (Gulati, 1994).

Men's participation in rearing of child has traditionally being viewed of minimal importance (Lamb, 1979). It is also not supposed to be the obligation of fathers to perform child-care tasks. The main responsibility of child-care is taken by the mothers only (Ramu, 1987). Recently, men's participation in household chores

and child-care has been viewed to somewhat increased (Thompson and walker, 1989). Same views were also expressed by Maheshwari (1994) who reported that dual earner couples share the liabilities as far as tasks related to health-care, socio-emotional behaviour and motor behaviour of their infants.

Gir (1990) found that father's participation in child-care has been increased by entry of women in paid labour force mounting evidence that father's play an important role in their child's development & socialization. In the present study attempts has been made to find out differences of fathers involvement in child-care among single and dual earner families in professional ministerial and labour class.

METHODOLOGY

The subjects of this study were fathers having two children, elder one in age group up to six years from Hisar City in Haryana State. Families having at least two children were contacted using door to door approach. The sample of study was 150 fathers equally representing three working classes viz. Professional, Ministerial and Labour. Further, under each class showing equal representation of working and non-working families. A self-structured, pretested interview schedule and inventory were used to test the differences of paternal involvement for selected child-care aspects among single and dual earner families in three working classes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 depicts the differences of paternal involvement for selected child-care aspects among single and dual earner families in professional class. Results indicate that fathers from dual-earner families provided better involvement as compared to fathers in single earner families.

For the child-care aspects i.e. feeding-weaning, toileting-bathing-dressing up, habit-formation-discipline and schooling through the mean scores obtained by the fathers in dual-earner families were greater than that of fathers in single-earner families. The mean scores obtained by the fathers from dual-earner families in respective order were like this: 49.8, 49.5, 49.1 and 48.0 while that of fathers from single-earner families were 34.9, 34.6, 39.8 and 35.6. Statistically, 't' value obtained were significant for feeding-weaning ('t' = 15.4**) and toileting-bathing-dressing up ('t' = 16.0**), habit formation disciplining ('t' = 6.96**), schooling ('t' = 8.78**). The 't' value obtained for the involvement regarding health-care was found non-significant. Thus, conclusion can be drawn that in professional class, dual-earner families were better involved by sharing the responsibility of child-care. The finding of this study got the strength from finding of Baruch et al. (1986). He stated that recently, interest in father's participation in child-care and household chores has been ignited by massive entry of women, especially married with children, into paid labour force and mounting evidence that

father's play an important role in their children's development and socialization.

A close perusal of table 2 revealed that in ministerial class fathers from dual earner families provided better involvement in feeding-weaning, toileting-bathing-dressing up, health-care, schooling of child against fathers from single earner families. The mean scores obtained by fathers from dual-earner families in respective order were 50.2, 48.8, 45.7 while that of fathers from single-earner families were 28.1, 27.9, 30.3. Statistically, the differences were significant 't' as values for feeding-weaning ('t' = 0.68), toileting-bathing-dressing up ('t' = 8.78**) and schooling ('t' = 8.34**). The 't' values obtained for involvement regarding health-care, habit formation disciplining activities was found significant at 5 percent level.

Data regarding the labour class paternal involvement indicates that there are small differences in the mean scores obtained by fathers for their involvement in child-care among single and dual earner families. Mean scores of fathers in single-earner families were 16.7, 13.8, 18.1, 11.1 and 7.60 and for fathers in dual-earner families

Table 1: Paternal involvement for selected child-care aspects among single and dual earner families in professional class

Child-care aspects	Non-working Mothers n = 25		Working Mothers n = 25		't' Calculated
	Mean Scores	Standard Error	Mean Scores	Standard Error	
Feeding-weaning	34.9	1.05	49.8	0.39	15.4**
Toileting-bathing-dressing up	34.6	0.97	49.5	0.42	16.0**
Health-care	49.6	2.00	53.2	0.41	2.19
Habit formation-discipline	39.8	1.40	49.1	0.55	6.96*
Schooling	35.9	1.46	48.0	0.60	8.78**

** Significant at 1 percent level

* Significant at 5 percent level

Table 2: Paternal involvement for selected child-care aspects among single and dual earner families in ministerial class

Child-care aspects	Non-working Mothers n = 25		Working Mothers n = 25		't' Calculated
	Mean Scores	Standard Error	Mean Scores	Standard Error	
Feeding-weaning	28.1	1.26	50.2	0.64	9.68**
Toileting-bathing-dressing up	27.9	1.32	48.8	0.39	8.78**
Health-care	40.7	1.24	51.8	0.54	4.96*
Habit formation-discipline	36.3	1.11	47.7	0.41	5.66*
Schooling	30.3	1.00	45.7	0.89	8.34**

** Significant at 1 percent level

* Significant at 5 percent level

Table 3: Paternal involvement for selected child-care aspects among single and dual earner families in labour class

Child-care aspects	Non-working Mothers n = 25		Working Mothers n = 25		't' Calculated
	Mean Scores	Standard Error	Mean Scores	Standard Error	
Feeding-weaning	16.7	1.18	17.4	1.47	0.34
Toileting-bathing-dressing up	13.8	0.98	16.6	1.58	1.51
Health-care	18.1	1.12	20.2	1.81	0.98
Habit formation-discipline	11.1	0.78	11.9	1.60	0.44
Schooling	7.60	0.51	9.46	1.69	1.03

were 17.4, 16.6, 20.2, 11.9 and 9.46 for the involvement regarding feeding-weaning, toileting-bathing-dressing up, health-care, habit formation disciplining, schooling respectively. The 't' calculated were less than 't' tabulated values indicating that the differences were statistically non-significant. So it can be concluded that involvement of fathers among labour class in child-care is not much affected whether spouse is working or non-working. A plausible explanation for this may be that egoistic feeling among men is stronger in labour class. It is not supposed to be obligation of fathers to perform child-care tasks. However, ego attached to men becomes weaker and they become more caring as their status increases in society and are educationally better (Kajal and Punia, 1996). If the mean scores of fathers involvement in different classes are compared, it can be seen that the involvement decreased when status increased i.e. the professional class fathers were better involved than ministerial and labour class in single as well as dual earner families. It clearly indicates that when education and income status improves the understanding of mates increased showing that they start realising the need for sharing the work of women in the families and also importance of their role in child-care.

Conclusively, it can be stated that dual-earner fathers provided better involvement in child-care against fathers from single-earner families. In professional class, the differences were non-significant only for health-care aspects but for the rest of child-care aspects, the differences were significant. In ministerial

class, differences were came to be significant for all child-care aspects whereas, in labour class results indicate that there are small differences in the involvement of fathers in single and dual earner families. Winding up the investigation suggests the recommendation for fathers of the families where the mothers are non-working, to share the child-care responsibilities with their wives for the better future of their children.

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